

Survey No. B-4379

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 115 West Saratoga Street

and/or common Frederick Realty Inc.

### 2. Location

street &amp; number 115 W. Saratoga Street

☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

☐ vicinity of

congressional district

Seventh

state Maryland

county Baltimore

### 3. Classification

#### Category

☐ district  
☒ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

#### Ownership

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

#### Public Acquisition

☐ in process  
☐ being considered  
☒ not applicable

#### Status

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress  
☒ Accessible  
☐ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

#### Present Use

☐ agriculture  
☒ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military  
☐ museum  
☐ park  
☐ private residence  
☐ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Benedict &amp; Dolores Frederick

street &amp; number 115 W. Saratoga Street

city, town Baltimore telephone no.:

MD 21201

state and zip code

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds Baltimore City Courthouse

SCL5596

street &amp; number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610

folio 86

city, town Baltimore

state MD

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4379

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1875 commercial building is three bays wide and three stories high. It abuts two partywall structures. The building faces north on W. Saratoga Street. The street frontage is 28'8" and the depth is 103'. The brick stretcher bond building is painted tan with silvery green trim and the first-story is covered with circa 1930s black vitrolite panels.

The first story has been altered circa 1936 (the date of the deed). The enframed window wall facade consists of black vitrolite panels framing a glazed window wall. The eastern section of the facade contains a large angled plate glass window that angles in toward the recessed entrance. The western section contains a recessed entrance with a glass door, transom, and wide sidelight. The plate glass sidelight is most likely a replacement to a second entrance to the upper stories (the staircase is visible directly behind the glass). The recessed vestibule is laid with white aggregate tiles and a black border around "115" laid in tile. A smooth metal cornice follows the angle of the window wall. The name of the business is etched into the vitrolite panels.

The second story has three 6/6 sash windows. The lintels are shelves supported by brackets. The brackets have incised designs and foliated pendant drops.

The third story has three 3/3 sash windows. The lintels are flat-top peaked back bands with scalloped drops at the ends. The peaked top is crested by a cast iron shell.

The projecting cornice has a profile of fillet, ogee, bead, dentil course and back band, supported by narrow curved brackets. Four large scrolled brackets divided the wall into three bays. A stringcourse runs between the foot of the brackets, closing of the "spandrels." The spandrels have ornate, filigree attic ventilators.

The interior is finished with wallboard and acoustic tile ceiling. The floor level steps up towards the back (south) of the building. A new oak stairway rises along the west wall, in the place where the original stair would have been.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4379

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	unknown
and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This three-bay, three-unit building is a good example of both circa 1875 commercial construction and of circa 1930 commercial storefronts.

The overall scale, proportion, and architectural detailing for the upper stories makes this a well-preserved example of combination commercial-residential architecture of the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century. This particular building probably dates to 1875, the year of the Clay Street fire. The presence of a residential rowhouse, or most likely, a combination shop-house indicates the mixed residential and commercial character of this Baltimore neighborhood in the nineteenth century. The now altered vestibule containing two entrances suggests that the building was constructed to hold more than one tenant, and that separate entrances were desirable. This separation of zones and access further suggest that the first-story was used commercially and the upstairs either as offices or residences. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."<sup>1</sup> In this particular example, the residential nature of the upper stories prevailed through to the present century.

Architecturally, this building reveals fine Italianate details. The second-story bracket and shelf lintels and the third-story shell-crested lintels are both well preserved. The cornice with the overhanging eaves supported by small modillion brackets and bay-defining scrolled brackets were a common way of decoratively capping the top of a building. The jig-sawn ventilator panels in the attic double as both a functional and aesthetic element of the structure.

<sup>1</sup> Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 19, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCE  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
301-514-7600



B-4379

115 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore, MD

Section 8 Significance

8.1

The Art Deco first-story facade is a stellar example of commercial 1940s shopfronts. This facade shows how vitrolite could be used in a melding of the 1930s streamlined Art Deco style with the 1950s Moderne; the effect of the glossy black panels was clean, smooth, shiny, with a geometric simplicity that was definitely unVictorian. The angled facade running towards a recessed entrance was popular: the recessed entrance permitted additional display areas along the vestibule wall and the slant of the facade wall "drew" the sidewalk traffic in.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:  
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Modern Period, 1930-present

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

Resource Type:  
Building

Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:  
Commercial/Residential?

Known Design Source:  
None

B-4379

Block  
699

PACA

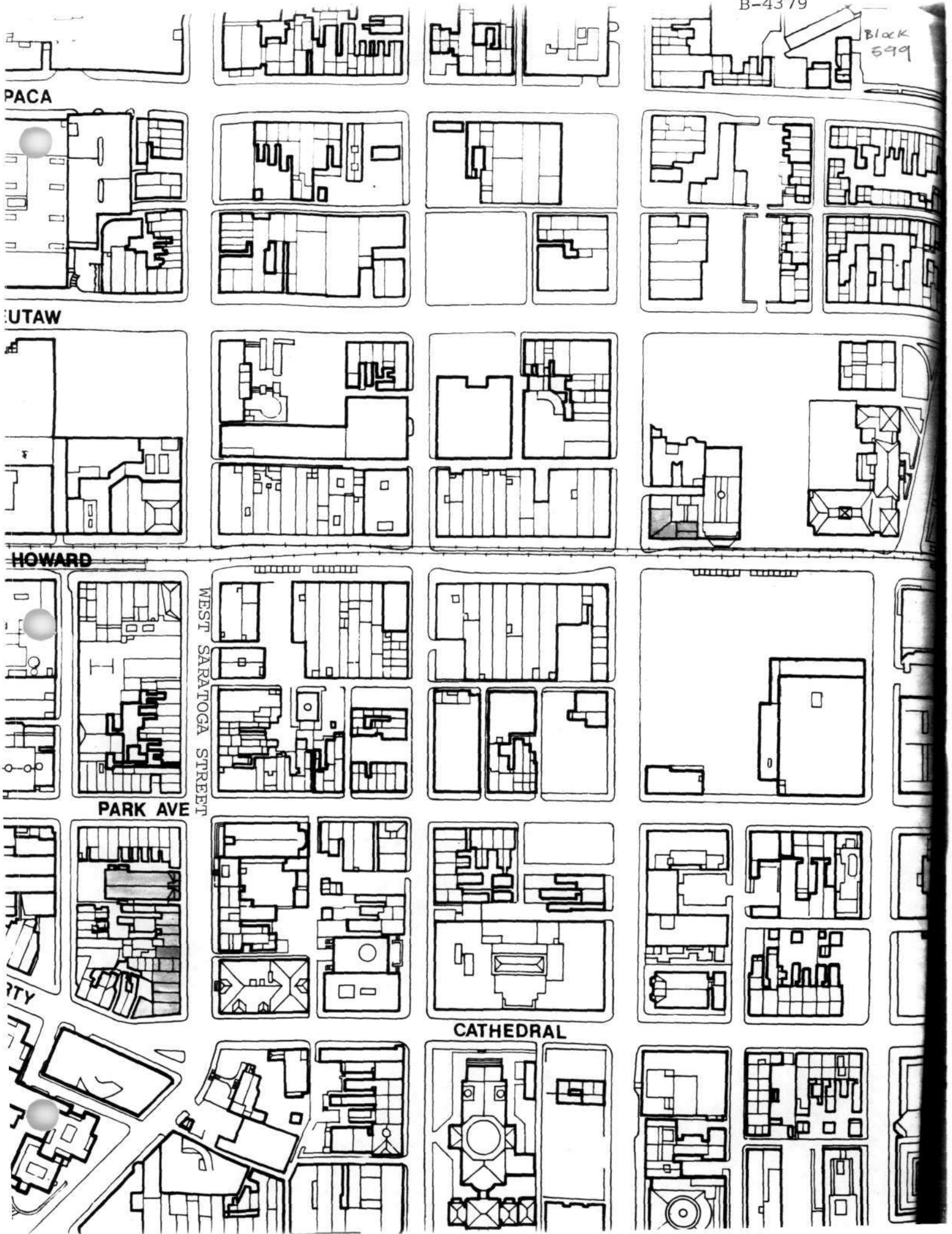
UTAW

HOWARD

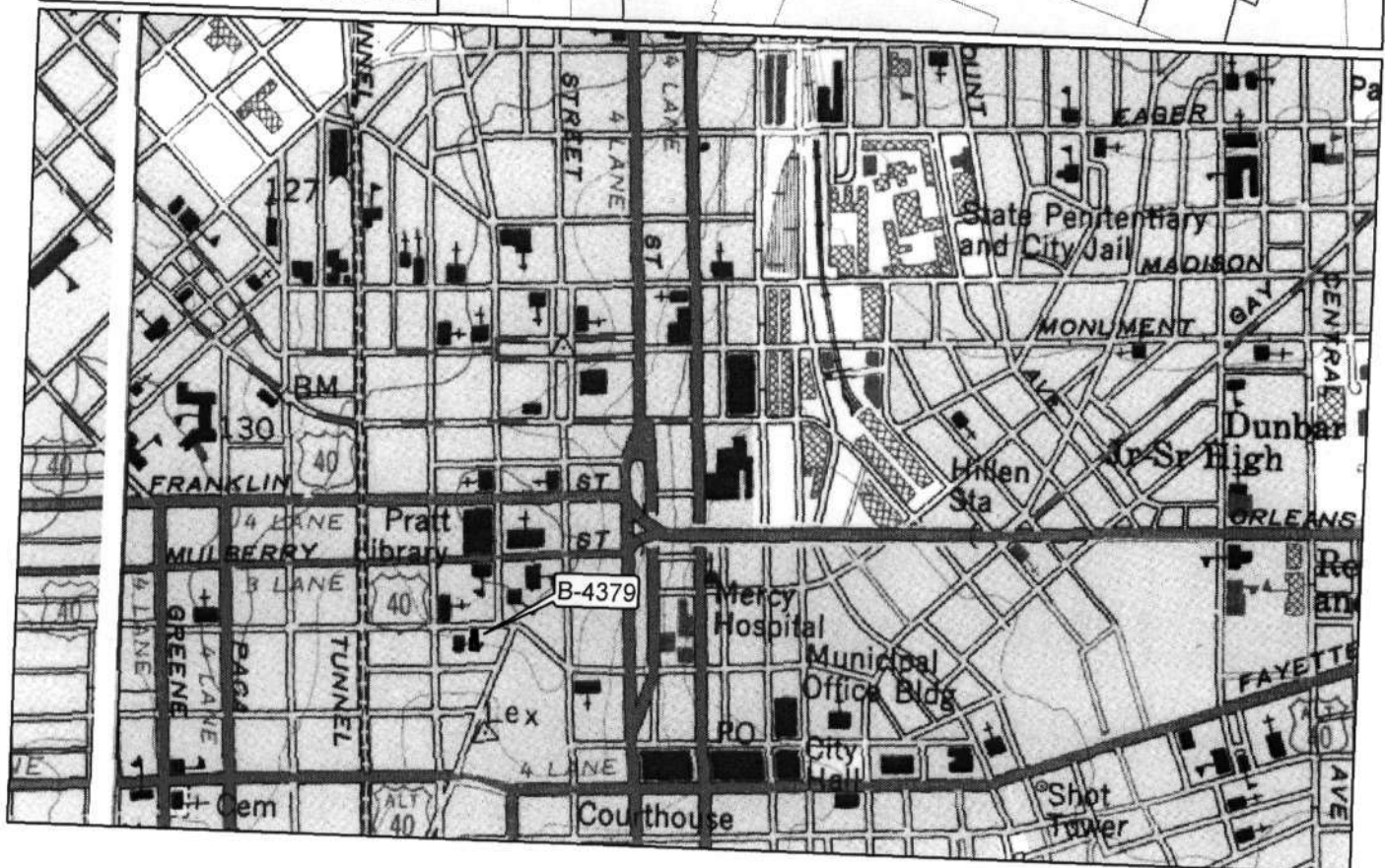
PARK AVE

WEST SARATOGA STREET

CATHEDRAL



B-4379  
 Frederick Realty Inc.  
 115 W. Saratoga Street  
 Block 0599, Lot 015  
 Baltimore City  
 Baltimore East Quad.







B-4379

115 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SAPO

Facade, north elevation

1/2

FREDERICK REALTY INC

180  
W. SARATOGA ST.

PLAY

AS  
HOP

FREDERICK REALTY INC



B-4379

115 W. Saratoga St.  
Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/9/

Maryland SHPD

Facade detail

2/2